Speedy rural development programme

3682. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the provisional for speedy rural development, there has been slow implementation of the rural development programmes particularly rural electrification scheme and rural drinking water supply;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to speed up the implementation of these schemes particularly in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Lack of awareness of Rural Development Programme among the rural population

3683. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government spends Rs. 30,000 crores on rural development every year under various heads, but unfortunately not much change is reflected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are many programmes for rural development but due to lack of awareness among the rural population about the programmes, most of the programmes are not being implemented effectively; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has the total revised Budget allocation (Plan) under various Schemes of Rs. 18216.40 crore during the year 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Realising the importance of communication, in mobilizing participatory development, concerted efforts are being made by the Ministry to disseminate information and message of Rural Development